I Believe in Hard Work and Determination

I believe that anything can be accomplished through hard work and determination. Willpower and fortitude are essential for success, and they have been my motivation for the last few years. Any task undertaken can be accomplished if you set your heart and mind to it. Some people begin something and immediately give up because they are convinced that they will not succeed. I believe that it is completely useless to quit something unless you have used up everything spec of energy and resources available. The ability to succeed comes with the willingness to strive for achievement.

 I have not always lived by this opinion. When I was younger I used to play a variety of sports, and I was always the worst player on every team I joined. In little league baseball I was the kid who was always positioned in the outfield where the ball never went. In soccer I spent the majority of the game on the bench. My father always tried motivating me by using those parental clichés that everyone hates as a child such as, “Practice makes perfect” and “life isn’t fair.”  I despised those words; practice never got you anywhere, and some people were born with talent while others weren’t.  At least that’s what I thought. I used to think that people were good at things that they were born to be good at. In middle school I had quit all attempts at being an athletic individual, and at the time I had a horrible work ethic. I was fairly intelligent, but I was receiving dreadful grades due to lack of effort. At this stage, whenever I saw other kids playing rigorous sports, I thought to myself that I would hate to do that and that I never would be able to. I used to despise gym class, particularly the timed mile. I used to walk, instead of run, the majority of the dreadful 4 laps around the football field. I was trapped inside my own lazy shell.

Recently my views about life have changed dramatically, catalyzed by a random epiphany that I had experienced at the end of my freshman year in high school. I realized that when you set a goal and contribute all of your efforts to accomplish it, you can succeed at anything. Ironically, I finally realized that there was some truth in the phrase "practice makes perfect." During the summer I joined a recreational swimming team, and began to run in the evenings. I worked my butt off for months just so that I could accomplish something. It paid off in the end when swimming and track season came around. I found out that through unwavering determination I could not only become an excellent athlete but one of the best athletes in my sporting events. The result of my willpower and strength of mind was the chance to attend districts for distance swimming the 2 years following. As a junior I finished in the top six, five hundred freestyle swimmers in the district. Also, during my junior year I decided to join the cross country team and I discovered that, due to my hard work the previous year, I could out run the majority of the other runners who had been running for most of their lives. In cross-country I worked incredibly hard during practice and became one of the top 7 varsity runners on the team.

 As I learned the value of discipline and hard work in sports, it also affected my academics. I began to get straight A’s because I learned the value of trying. Working to my fullest potential has made my life much more fulfilling and accomplished. Although you can’t necessarily be amazing at everything, if you put your strength of mind into it you can accomplish the majority of tasks that you uptake. I now have a completely different outlook on life due to this realization. If it worked for me, it should work for everybody.